journey by Air on LTC to North-Eastern Region and Andaman & Nicobar Islands etc. because of financial constraints and other administrative difficulties. There is no proposal to permit the same also.

Representation regarding Rehabilitation

*274. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding rehabilitation from Jagdamba Anusuchit, Jati Shetkari Vinkari Sahakari Soot Girni Niyamit, Madhya District Sholapur, Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government propose to give grant under Section 59 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to give grant under Article 280 read with Article 46 of the Constitution of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Recommendations on the New Telecom Policy

*275. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has constituted a 12-Member Group on Telecommunications to make recommendations on the new Telecom Policy and sort out outstanding issues with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated the 21st November, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating whether any representation to telecom industry related Associations and TRAI also has been given in the newly set up group; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much time Government would take to formulate its new telecom policy as well as a separate Telecom Service Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Group on Telecommunications (GOT) under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been constituted to make recommendations on:

(i) Proposed New Telecom Policy;

(ii) Issues relating to the existing licensees of basic and cellular services and suggest appropriate remedial measures within the framework of the New Telecom Policy; and

(iii) Issues relating to TRAI.

Though in the said Group, no representation to telecom industry related Association and TRAI has been given, the Group will hold wider discussion and interaction with Industry and Trade as well with knowledgeable persons in the telecom sector, both official as well as non-official, while making recommendations on the New Telecom Policy.

The Group will submit its recommendations as early as possible.

As regards a separate Telecom Service Board, a Working Group is to work out the composition and functions of the proposed Board.

Public Harassment by Telemarketing Companies

*276 SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item published in the "Economic Times" dated the 24th November, 1998, captioned "Privacy issue may threaten telemarketing";

(b) whether it is a fact that no guidelines have been brought out by Government to ensure that public is not harassed by telemarketing companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in cities like Delhi, telemarketing has become a nuisance for ordinary salarised class;

(d) in what way Government propose to ensure that strict guidelines are there to see that public is not harassed by telemarketing; and

(e) the details of measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No guidelines have been issued specifically for Telemarketing companies. However, Indian Telegraph Rules (ITR) 427 takes care in general that no telephone issued for annoying/indecent/obscene nature of messages/communications. Copy of the extracts of ITR 427 is enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) No such case has been brought to the notice of the Department of Telecom.

(d) and (e) Sir, ITR 427 takes care of such eventualities.

Statement

427. Illegal or improper use of telephone.— A subscriber shall be personally responsible for the use of his telephone. No telephone shall be used to disturb or irritate any persons or for the transmission of any message or communication which is of an indecent or obscene nature or is calculated to annoy any person or to disrupt the maintenance of public order or any other manner contrary to any provision of law.

Enhancement of Telephone Exchange Capacity in Andhra Pradesh

*277. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans for expansion of telephone exchange capacity in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the waiting list for telephones in both the above districts;

(c) the schedule for making telephones available on demand in these two districts; and

(d) the proposed Exchange expansion and capacity in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The plans for expansion of telephone exchange capacity in West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99 is as follows:

District	Capacity Addition
East Godavari	45934
West Godavari	46800

(b) The waiting list for Telephones in West Godavari and East Godavari districts as on 31.10.98 is given under:

District	Total Waiting List
East Godavari	17646
West Godavari	19940

(c) As per 9th Plan proposed by DOT it is planned to provide telephone on demand by March 2002.

(d) Plans for the expansion of exchange and capacity addition are drawn up on yearly basis depending upon waiting list and demand. Such plans for the next two years have not been drawn up so far.

एम॰टी॰वी॰ द्वारा राष्ट्रीय ध्वज का प्रतीक चिन्ह के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाना

*278. प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री 3 दिसम्बर, 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 583 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि राष्ट्रीय ध्वज का प्रतीक चिन्ह के रूप में प्रयोग किए जाने पर एम॰टी॰वी॰ के विरुद्ध सरकार कब तक और क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहेगी?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन): दिनांक 3.12.98 का राज्य सभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 583 एम॰टी॰वी॰ या राष्ट्रीय ध्वज के प्रयोग से नहीं बल्कि प्रसारण विधेयक पर विधान से संबंधित है। तथापि, यह पाया गया था कि पूर्व में एम॰टी॰वी॰ अपने प्रतीक चिन्ह (लोगो) में राष्ट्रीय ध्वज के तीन रंगों का उपयोग कर रहा था जिसे उन्होंने इस बारे में उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करने पर बंद कर दिया था। अत: इस मंत्रालय द्वारा उनके विरुद्ध आगे कोई कार्रवाई अपेक्षित नहीं है।

Website Facilities

*279. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities to host the websites within the country are available;